



I

C L A R E   R U R A L   D I S T R I C T

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

for the year

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District  
of Clare, in the County of West Suffolk, for the  
year ended 31st December, 1967.

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Public Health Department,

Severals House,

Newmarket.

July, 1968.

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1967.

The Birth Rate for the third year in succession was higher than  
that for the country as a whole.

The Death Rate was less than that for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate was appreciably less than that for  
England and Wales.

There were ten cases of Food Poisoning during the year and these were  
the occasion of a considerable effort on the part of your Public Health  
staff in the tracing of sources of infection and contacts.

A minor outbreak of measles occurred but this was of a mild nature.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help afforded me in  
compiling the Report by the Clerk of the Council and the Chief Public  
Health Inspector.

My thanks are also offered to the Chairman and all members of the  
Public Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the  
year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. FARNILL MORGAN

Medical Officer of Health

## 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year).

Area of the District	(49,360 acres)	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	(24)	24
Rateable Value	(£227,699)	£238,968
Sum represented by Penny Rate	(£854)	£930
Number of inhabited houses	(3,226)	3,261
Number of empty houses	(213)	229
Population Census 1961	(8,815)	-
Population Registrar's Estimate	(June 1966) 10,100	June 1967 10,360

## 2. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

- (a) Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.
- (b) Senior Public Health Inspector:- Mr. H.A. Smith (appointed November 1944 who also holds the office of Engineer and Surveyor).  
Additional Public Health Inspector:- Mr. W.J. Black (appointed September 1965) who also holds the appointment of Building Inspector)
- (c) Meat Inspection:- A Senior Meat Inspector together with six Authorised Officers are appointed to carry out meat inspection duties at the Little Wratting Abattoir.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	101	76	177	(170)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	6	4	10	(11)
				Total	107	80	187	(181)

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	18.1	(17.9)
Corrected birth rate (Comp. factor 1.13)	..	..	..	..	..	20.4	(20.2)
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	17.2	(17.7)
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	5.3	(6.1)

STILL BIRTHS

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>			
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	(1)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	(-)
			Total	2	1	3	(1)	

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	15.8.	(5.5)
" " " " " " "	(Eng. & Wales)	14.8	(15.4)			

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>			
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	103	77	180	(171)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	6	4	10	(11)
			Total	109	81	190	(182)	

DEATHS

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
			76	38	114	(96)
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	11.0	(9.5)
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor 0.87)	..	..	..	..	9.6	(8.2)

Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) .. .. .. 11.2 (11.7)

INFANT MORTALITY - Deaths of infants under one year of age

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>			
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	(1)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	(-)
			Total	1	1	2	(1)	

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	10.7	(5.5)
" " " " " " "	(Eng. & Wales)	..	..	..	18.3	(19.0)
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legit. live births	..	..	..	..	11.3	(5.9)
Illegitimate " " " " illegit. " "	..	..	..	..	-	(-)

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births .. .. .. 10.7 (5.5)

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births .. .. .. 5.3 (5.5)

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths .. .. 21.0 (10.9)

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths (including abortion) .. .. .. .. .. - (-)  
Death rate per 1,000 total live and still births .. .. .. .. .. - (-)

<u>RATES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Adjusted birth rates	16.8	16.1	16.0	16.4	16.5	20.4	20.2	20.4
Adjusted death rates	9.1	10.4	9.0	10.3	10.4	11.2	8.2	9.6

4. CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	-
Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	..	..	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	-
Cancer (all types)	..	..	..	..	..	25 (19)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	-
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	2 (-)
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	13	10
Heart disease (all forms)	..	..	..	..	26	13
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	2	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	-
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	4	4 (7)
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	1	1 (-)
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	5	1 (1)
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	3	1
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	1	2
Suicide	..	..	..	..	-	-
				<u>76</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>114</u> (96)

5. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	21 (-)
Measles	..	..	..	..	85 (73)
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	10 (-)
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	1 (-)
			<u>57</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>117</u> (73)

6. TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
1. Cases at commencement 1967	22	5	1	2	30
2. First notified during 1967	-	-	-	1	1
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by transfers	-	-	-	-	-
5. Cases removed from Register	2	-	-	-	2
6. Remaining at 31/12/67	20	5	1	3	29

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY YOUR SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. WATER SUPPLIES

Mains water is supplied to your area by the West Suffolk Water Board and has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

There are still a number of dwellings being supplied from standpipes, but the percentage is relatively small and gradually being reduced by Cottages being improved and by those falling into dereliction.

B. SEWFRAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewerage and Sewage disposal schemes are in operation for the following Villages :-

Clare and Cavendish - (with disposal works near to Clare)  
Kedington and Great Wratting - (with disposal works near to Kedington)  
Hundon, Stoke-by-Clare, Withersfield.

The following Village schemes were put into full operation during the year :-

Wickhambrook, Wixoe,  
Lidgate and Ousden - (with works near to Lidgate)  
Great and Little Bradley and Great and Little Thurlow  
- (with works at Little Thurlow)

The Council reconsidered their proposals for enlarging the Clare disposal works to accommodate sewage from an estimate population of 6,000 - This scheme was given Ministry approval but Chilton and Poslingford were excluded from the possibility of early commencement because of the general economic situation.

An amended proposal with an ultimate disposal works capacity for 4,500 population was given Ministry approval this year. It is hoped to commence the work in 1968, meanwhile your present disposal works are working at maximum capacity and a reduced standard of effluent can be anticipated whilst new housing development is proceeding.

The Council are reminded of the unsatisfactory drainage arrangements and nuisances from sewage existing at Poslingford where I feel main drainage is urgent.

Other villages in your area where I suggest sewage disposal schemes are very necessary and urgent in the interests of the health of those living therein are Cowlinge, Barnardiston, the Bury road area of Wickhambrook and Stansfield.

Other Villages in your area not having main drainage present nuisance problems from foul ditches, property owners are discouraged from Cottage improvements, new development is retarded and I suggest constant review of these Village problems might well reveal an extreme urgency for main drainage.

### C. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

A weekly kerbside collection of dustbins came into operation during the year.

Collection of waste paper and trade refuse in Clare continues.

About 90 tons of refuse is disposed of each week into your three quarries at Kedington, Denston and Lidgate (the latter being acquired during the year). The method of tipping is that known as "uncontrolled" and no doubt the Council will proceed with their investigations into other methods of treatment and disposal which should eliminate many complaints from the public as to nuisances, foul odours, flies, vermin and unsightly appearances within those areas surrounding these dumps.

Septic tanks on Council house estates are cleaned out by Contract and during the year 241 tanks of private dwellings were cleared at a reduced rate of 10/- per load of 750 gallons of sewage.

### D. INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made by the Department during the year under various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	412
Housing Defects and Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Housing Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Drainage Alterations and Building Regulations	..						291
Housing Maintenance	..	..	..	..	..	..	143
Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
Factory Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Factory Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Verminous Premises and Insect Infestations							29
Refuse Collection and Disposal							79
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Petroleum Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Slaughterhouse and Knackers Yard							54
Food and Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Other Matters	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Town and Country Planning							132
Public Health Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	128
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Offices and Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Mobile Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Total Visits							2004

#### E. HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements to private dwellings have continued throughout the year both with and without grant aid.

Dwellings improved by grant aid this year numbered 61 of which about half were rented accommodation.

Since the commencement of the improvement grant scheme, 441 dwellings have been modernised by way of Discretionary Grant and 168 by Standard Grant. Modernising 256 pre-war Council Houses was also completed during the year. The total representing 25% of all houses in the district.

#### PROCEDURE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Housing complaints investigated	..	..	..	..	48
Informal notices sent to Owners	..	..	..	..	20
Complaints abated	..	..	..	..	22
Houses rendered fit after informal action	..	..	..	..	12
Statutory notices served	..	..	..	..	NIL
Prosecutions	..	..	..	..	NIL

#### PROCEDURE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT 1957

Houses on which demolition orders were made	..	..	NIL
Houses on which Closing Orders were made	..	..	NIL
Houses demolished by Owners	..	..	5
Undertakings to make fit accepted	..	..	NIL
Houses made fit	..	..	6

#### NEW DWELLINGS PROVIDED

Parish	By the Council	Privately
Cavendish		8
Clare	23	21
Cowlinge		1
Depden	2	2
Great Bradley		2
Hawkedon		1
Hundon		21
Kedington	6	26
Lidgate		2
Little Thurlow		2
Ousden	4	1
Stoke-by-Clare		2
Wickhambrook		5
Withersfield		2
Total	35	96

This year saw the completion of 22 flats for aged people and a Warden's flat at Erbury Place, Clare.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the area.

#### CARAVANS

There are a number of individual caravans in the area controlled by an annual consent under the Town and Country Planning Act and every effort is made to see that essential services are available to safe-guard the health of the occupants.

No licences are in being under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

#### F. PET SHOPS

There are none in the area.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No formal action was necessary under The Clean Air Act, 1956. Discussions regarding a dense smoke emission from a laundry chimney have resulted in oil firing being resorted to and work should be completed next year.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT

There was no call for formal action under The Noise Abatement Act, 1960, but several complaints have been investigated and remedied.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of premises registered at the end of the year and which received a general inspection was :-

Offices	8
Retail Shops	15
Fuel Storage Depots	1
Catering Establishments	1
Wholesale Shops	1
	<hr/>
	26

Contraventions noted were in respect of Temperature 2, Sanitary Conveniences 1, Washing facilities 1, First Aid 2. These are being rectified.

#### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Qualifications in the Act appear to exempt one or two establishments in the area where such animals are known to be kept, and consequently there are no licensed establishments.

#### PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

There are 79 licensed petrol storage installations in the area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODFood Premises in the area

There are 91 food premises in the area, the majority being general grocers, hotels and public houses.

Inspections reveal a generally acceptable hygienic standard including mobile food vans which are increasing in number.

Hotels, Inns, Cafes and Restaurants .....	49
General Stores .....	33
Bakeries .....	2
Butchers Shops .....	4
Greengrocers .....	2
Fish Shops .....	1

No ice cream is manufactured in the area and the following premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream :-

General Stores and Shops .....	27
Public Houses .....	5

Offensive Trades

There is one licensed establishment at the Little Wratting Abattoir for the trades of Blood Drying, Fat Melting and Rendering, and Gut Scraping.

Licensed Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards

There is one licensed slaughterhouse and one Knackers Yard in the area. Humane methods of slaughtering are used.

Licensed Slaughtermen

There are 52 licensed slaughtermen. 2 new licences were granted during the year.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	Nil	Nil	366,053	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	1,663	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Not Known	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	Nil	Nil	-	
<u>Tuberculosis only :</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	9	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Not Known	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	-	
Cysticercosis: There were no cases during the year.				

The bulk of the rejected meat is purchased by a contractor (outside your District) and processed into animal food, fertilizers, glues, greases etc.

H. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	23	15	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	23	15	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - NIL

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

No. of Outworkers :-

Making of wearing apparel	-	12
Carbon Jig Assembly	-	11
Firework base assembly	-	12





